

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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TAGS: EEC, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: EC/CANADA ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

REF: A. OTTAWA 1061 B. EC BRUSSELS 8390 (OCT. 25, 1974)

C. EC BRUSSELS 8143 (OCT. 18, 1974)

1. BOTH THE CANADIAN MISSION TO THE EC AND THE COMMISSION SEEM TO FEEL THAT THERE ARE REAL PROSPECTS THAT SOME FORM OF "CONTRACTUAL LINK" CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND CANADA. THE INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE PREDICTED IN PARA 7 OF REF B HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS WHO VISITED CANADA SOME SIX WEEKS AGO RECEIVED POSITIVE REACTIONS FROM THE CANADIANS TO THEIR PROPOSALS. THE CANADIANS ARE SENDING A TEAM TO BRUSSELS FOR FURTHER MEETINGS ON APRIL 7-8. IF THESE DISCUSSION GO WELL, A COMMISSION SOURCE FEELS THAT THE COMMISSION MAY SOON THEREAFTER BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EC HAS INDICATED A SIMILAR TIMETABLE, STATING HIS HOPE THAT A COMMISSION PAPER REQUESTING A COUNCIL MANDATE FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE

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SUMMER.

2. NEITHER THE CANADIAN MISSION NOR THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DISCUSS IN ANY DETAIL THE CONTENT OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. A COMMISSION SOURCE HAS AGREED THAT THE IDEA OF A GATT-TYPE TRADE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DISCARDED. THE TWO SIDES ARE WORKING ON SOME FORM OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT, BUT TO DESCRIBE IT AS SUCH IMPLIES THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES WHOSE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF CANADA. IN FACT, THIS SOURCE DESCRIBES THE AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLY PRECEDENT-SETTING, AS THE FIRST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT WITH A DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRY. BOTH THE CANADIAN MISSION AND THE COMMISSION HAVE ASSURED US THAT THE COUNTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE NON-PREFERENTIAL IN NATURE. THE AGREEMENT MAY, ON THE OTHER HAND, PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH JOINT VENTURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN RESOURCES COULD BE ENVISAGED.

3. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ARE COMING CLOSER TOGETHER. IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, CERTAIN MEMBER STATES WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT COMMISSION IDEAS REGARDING POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. OUR COMMISSION SOURCE FEELS THAT THERE IS NOW A BROAD CONSENSUS AMONG THE MEMBER STATES REGARDING THE DIRECTION EC/CANADA DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET A BETTER READING ON THESE DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE APRIL 7-8 BRUSSELS MEETING. GREENWALD

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